

## Melise Gets Launching By Air Force

By Millicent Benner

REGATTA QUEEN Melise Ross, was honored at a party given by her parents, Bolling Air Force Commander, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. tSoyte O. Ross, at the air base's officers' club last night.

Although she arrived with a police escort an hour late, because of a television appearance, she caught up with the "congratulations" when she stepped into the receiving line. With her was First Lt. Richard W. Velde, who is the queen's Regatta escort and says he, "can't complain" about the assignment.

Melise wore a dress of blue lace and had a corsage on each shoulder. Mrs. Ross was also in lace, hers a ballerina length gown of light brown.

Other "royalty" in the crowd included members of the queen's court with their official dates. Capt. Joseph Petrone came with princess Jacquelyn McCartney; Ellie Burger was there with Lieut. Ed Nelson; Lieut. Fox Johnston escorted Betty Barnes; Kathy Cabell was with Lieut. Dick Coulter; Elizabeth Thatcher, with Lieut. Jack Pierson; and Debbie Gude, with Lieut. Mark O'Leary.

ARRIVING EARLY was 1953 Regatta queen Pat Priest Jensen with husband Pierce, who had been her Regatta escort two years ago. The couple returned a week ago from their Michigan honeymoon.

Admiring the gleaming \$30,000 gold President's Cup and the \$7000 William A. Rogers Memorial Trophy, which were set up on the buffet table, were John Remon, president of the President's Cup Regatta; Henry Burroughs, vice general chairman of the Regatta; R. S. Walker, general chairman of the President's Cup Association and Orville Crouch, chairman of the aqua pageant.

EDGAR MORRIS, chairman of the coronation committee, arrived late. He will host a party for the Regatta court Sunday night but Queen Melise will not be able to be there.

She is leaving after the last race on Sunday for the University of Florida where she is enrolled as a freshman. "She has already missed orientation week at the university," said Mrs. Ross, "but it couldn't be helped this time."